

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

#569
X
Reserve
Ag 84 Pro.

FALLOUT PROTECTION Is Your Affair

*As a leader
reaching rural people,
YOU CAN HELP* X

U. S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY

1964

CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS



7a
PA-569 Federal Extension Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
in cooperation with the Office of
Civil Defense, Department of Defense

the challenge



President Kennedy has said that "nuclear weapons and the possibility of nuclear attack are facts of life we cannot ignore." He has called on the Department of Agriculture "to inform rural people of their role in an emergency and to give them educational assistance in reducing vulnerability of homes, crops and livestock."

Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara has said: "... fallout population are critical to enable us to survive the sequences of a nuclear war. We might be forced to live with it." He has also stated that "some wartime civil defense measures could do more to

the need for rural defense

Over 67 million people live in rural USA. This includes towns of under 10,000. Generally they do not live near enough to have access to group shelters. The Office of Civil Defense is stocking with survival items.

Radioactive fallout is the big danger in rural areas. Rural people can survive fallout. Time and distance are likely to be in their favor. They can plan for and take shelter to shield themselves and key livestock and food from the fallout. They could resume vital food production. They need to pick the safest place for their family and livestock and add protection to it, or build a shelter.

Many people are not yet fully aware of the dangers of fallout, or that they could survive a possible attack. Many are not interested because they don't know. Others are frightened, but don't understand the nature of the danger or what to do.

Planning for tornado, flood, fire and other emergencies is familiar to rural people. Many have storm cellars, vegetable storage rooms, underground silos and other buildings to which they could add more fallout protection.

Making them aware of the danger, helping them understand the facts and alternatives, is the challenge. We need to help people understand that rural America can and must survive fallout from possible nuclear attack.

the challenge



President Kennedy has said that "nuclear weapons and the possibility of nuclear attack are facts of life we cannot ignore." He has called on the Department of Agriculture "to inform rural people of their role in an emergency and to give them educational assistance in reducing vulnerability of homes, crops and livestock."

Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara has stated that "... fallout shelters for the population are absolutely essential to enable us to face the consequences of a nuclear war which might be forced upon us." He has also stated that "... in some wartime situations a reasonable civil defense program could do more to save lives than

many active defense measures."

Secretary of Agriculture Freeman has called on the Cooperative Extension Service to lead and coordinate an all-out information and educational program to inform rural people of the need for protection and give them the facts they need to survive possible attack and to continue vital food production.

the need for rural defense

Over 67 million people live in rural USA. This includes towns of under 10,000. Generally they do not live near enough to have access to group shelters the Office of Civil Defense is stocking with survival items.

Radioactive fallout is the big danger in rural areas. Rural people can survive fallout. Time and distance are likely to be in their favor. They can plan for and take shelter to shield themselves and key livestock and food from the fallout. They could resume vital food production. They need to pick the safest place for their family and livestock and add protection to it, or build a shelter.

Many people are not yet fully aware of the dangers of fallout, or that they could survive a possible attack. Many are not interested because they don't know. Others are frightened, but don't understand the nature of the danger or what to do.

Planning for tornado, flood, fire and other emergencies is familiar to rural people. Many have storm cellars, vegetable storage rooms, underground silos and other buildings to which they could add more fallout protection.

Making them aware of the danger, helping them understand the facts and alternatives, is the challenge. We need to help people understand that rural America can and must survive fallout from possible nuclear attack.

rural people must know

What fallout is; that the pulverized debris pulled high into the air by a nuclear explosion can fall over a wide area, and how distance, time and shelter provide protection from the radioactivity carried by fallout particles.

Shelter is a must, and the walls and top of the shelter must be thick and heavy enough to shield from the radiation that comes from the fallout.

Family Plan Essential: It must provide for shelter, for a 2-week reserve of food, water, provisions for sanitation, a battery radio and other necessities. Farmers have valuable livestock which must be protected, fed and watered. Production essentials must be protected. The plan must cover who will do what in an emergency.

Self-help training important: Our education, public health, Red Cross, Civil Defense and other agencies are giving special civil defense and medical self-help training courses. Someone in every family needs to take such courses. People also need to understand the warning system and community survival plans.



what you can do

You can help make rural people aware of the need for preparedness; help them see that they can survive fallout, and give them understanding of the facts about protection. Any group that does business with, lives among or otherwise communicates with rural people can help do this important educational job.

Business leaders—bankers, food handlers, advertisers, etc.—can stress the need for civil defense preparedness in their regular group and personal contacts, bills, advertisements and other customer relations with rural and smalltown people.

Press, Radio, Television and other communication leaders play a major role in keeping rural and other Americans informed. County and State extension agents can do much to help you get the facts as they apply locally, find good stories and do an important public service and educational job.

Organization leaders in farm, civic, business, women's clubs and other groups with rural membership can inform their members and others in the community.

Rural Educators and Parent-Teacher groups in their school, correspondence courses, special workshops and other efforts can bring a mixture of science and current preparedness knowledge into almost every home.

Rural Church groups while continuing to work for peace can do much to create understanding and give meaning and balance to the preparedness educational effort.



extension will help

The Cooperative Extension Service has undertaken leadership in this rural defense job and can help you. Extension cooperates with Federal, State and local Civil Defense officials, USDA Defense Boards and other agencies and organizations.

The accent will be on creating awareness, giving the facts and local alternatives, on stimulating rural people to make the best possible preparedness plans. The approach will be that civil defense preparedness is simply another factor that rural people need to consider in all their farm, feed, food and home management plans.

facts available

You can get many of the facts you need from publications and other material available from extension agents, State Extension Services, and State and local Civil Defense officials.

Some of the basic publications are:

Radioactive Fallout on the Farm, USDA Farmer's Bulletin 2107. Protection of livestock, land and crops and other pointers.

Family Food Stockpile for Survival, USDA Home and Garden Bulletin 77. Recommended 2-week food supply, meal plans, cooking equipment, water sources, purifying water.

Soils, Crops, and Fallout, USDA, PA-514.

Fallout and Your Farm Food, USDA, PA-515.

Your Livestock Can Survive Fallout, USDA, PA-516.

Rural Fire Defense, You Can Survive, USDA, PA-517.

Farm Fallout Shelter and Storage, USDA, MP-910.

Fallout Protection—What to Know and Do About Nuclear Attack, OCD, H-6. Covers basic facts, building and family shelters, shelter supplies, emergency housekeeping.

Family Shelter Designs, OCD, H-7. Working plans for eight family shelters.

Each State Extension Service has named a Rural Civil Defense Educational Program Leader. Special efforts are underway to better train county extension agents and supply them with publications and other information rural people need. They will in turn train local leaders, help communities organize for action, work with organizations, mass media, and others to spread the needed information and help families with facts for follow-through plans. They will be acquainted with the local civil defense organization and plan and coordinate their activities for a total approach to civil defense.

Other publications showing how more protection can be built into existing as well as new buildings will soon be available.

For further information see your county extension agent or local civil defense official; write the State Cooperative Extension Service at your Land-Grant College or University or the Federal Extension Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D.C.



Cooperative Extension Work: United States Department of Agriculture and State Land-Grant Colleges and Universities Cooperating.

Issued May 1963

